



San Diego Festival April 4th

Attention all AVID Folk Dancers. To see the most unusual exhibitions and dance all of your favorite folk dances, come to the bestest festival that Southern California has ever had. It is going to be in the Conference Building in Balboa Park in the sunny city of San Diego. The date to put down in your little red book is APRIL 4. The building is large enough to accomodate as many dancers as will come and I will guarantee that the floor will not be slippery.

The festival chairmen Gerhart and Marthalee Mehner tell me that this year's festival is going to be spectacular. The theme of our festival is "FIESTA DE BAILES", and the Mexican colors red, white and green are going to be prominently displayed along with the American flag.

The council meeting is going to be held in the Conference Building upstairs in Room 13 at 11:00.

The dancing on the day of the festival will start at 1:30 with the entrance of the color guard and will end at 5:30 with an unusual surprise.

"FIESTA DE BAILES" is being sponsored by the San Diego Folk Dancers who are under the auspices of the San Diego Park and Recreation Department.

Our exhibitions this year are going to be really great. We have asked the Veselje Kolo Group from Arcadia, California to perform two kolos, and the Scotch dancers under the direction of Mrs. Clark Lutorius will offer a single and double sword dance and reel; music by Cameron Highlanders bagpipe band. The Phillipine group, under the direction of Mrs. Julia Elegado, will present the intriguing Tinikling. Others clubs from L. A. will be present.

We hope that our festival this year will help to encourage more people to take up folk dancing and, since we have been put in the public's eye by the great medium of television, folk dancing in San Diego is bound to go a long way. This is mostly due to the efficient teachers who give their time freely and teach us such a wide variety of dances.

The beginners class on Monday nights is taught by Evelyn Prewett and the advanced workshop group is taught by Vivian Woll, which you all know as the Treasurer of the Southern California Federation of Folk Dancers. We have been very fortunate to have Vyts Beliajus come to our city, and he has started a marvelous folk dance class in which he teaches us the really authentic dances from the old country and gives us the benefits of his numerous travels.

The officers of the San Diego Folk Dancers: Marion Scanlan, President; Mildred Lexa, Vice-President; Rita Farrell, Secretary; Fred Johnson, Treasurer; and all the San Diego Folk Dancers cordially invite you to attend our 5th annual Folk Dance Festival. Don't forget the date: APRIL 4 in San Diego from 1:30 to 5:30.

RITA FARRELL, Secretary

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The International Folk Festivals as presented at the Philharmonic every year has become a Los Angeles tradition. This year will see its 7th annual event on Saturday, April 10.

Staged under ideal circumstances with narration, choral interpolations, excellent lighting and co-ordination, the program offers the finest in ethnic exhibition work. Altho danced primarily by amateur (as folk dancing should be), it has a high degree of finish. A colorful

finale involving all the nationalities gives a rousing conclusion to the performance.

In past programs, the following countries have been

This year's show will be as good as or better than previous programs, presenting for the first time dancers from Holland, Romania, Germany, Macedonia and Costa Rica. Several of our old friends will again appear in new and exciting routines, among them the Lithuanians, Swedes, Filipinos, Israelis and Japanese. Elliot Lewis will be the Narrator and Paul Erfer, co-ordinator and director. The entire production is under the supervision of Irwin Parnes.

Don't forget the date: Saturday night, April 10 at the Philharmonic in Los Angeles. Get your tickets early.

20TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

For the 20th year Sarah Gertrude Knott will run the National Folk Festival once again, and once again in St. Louis under the sponsorship of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The dates are set for April 7 to 10, inclusive. Any group desiring to participate please contact Miss Knott at 1133 Franklin Ave., St. Louis 1, Mo. The National Folk Festival is the oldest in continuous appearance, and it is the most outstanding. The participation in it is an event which no outstanding or unusual group, should bypass. If you can, be there.

AMPOL INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

On Feb. 21 the American Polish Club "Ampol" installed their new officers at the Polish Auditorium of Los Angeles. The event opened with a Polish dinner of Kilbasa with Kapusta, roast chicken and all trimmings. A short program followed. The two Forsythe Sisters sang charmingly four popular selections; Leilani Papadol, winner at an Irish Feis, did an Irish Horn Pipe; Liliana performed a Spanish Paso Doble (Alegrias) and Espana Cani; Catrice Christi first did a ballet number with a shadow in the person of little Shirley who proved to be a perfect shadow, then Catrice did a solo without a shadow. After the program an evening of dancing polkas and stuff was followed to the orchestra of Bob Olisar. Will Kinsey was in charge of the program and Carl Schmidt was the Master of Ceremonies. Tamara Swirskaya was the excellent pianist.

The following are the new officers: Ernie Norman—President, Al Labac—Vice President, Alma Marosz—Treasurer, Anna Poprac—Recording Secretary; Marian Saksowicz and Joanne Francuz as Corresponding Secretaries.

BUSY ATEITIS

ATEITIS Lithuanian folk dancers of Chicago had a successful and busy winter. All their appearances were well received. Practically in fast successions they danced for the Chicago Dance Council where they made such a pleasant hit that they were invited as honorary members for 1954. They also made a terrific hit with their Harvest Romance appearing for Sophie Barcus' Annual concert. Friday, February 12th, they danced for The Crusade of Freedom. Then on the 14th for the Marian Auxiliary. We hear said that Bruno Shotas is doing very well as the president of ATEITIS.

This group is planning to present their annual program on April 27th at the Chicago Lithuanian Auditorium, 3133 S. Halsted Street. Be there for an enjoyable evening.

PILL ROLLERS GROWING STRONG

The Pill Rollers is a new organization of folk dancers, but the pills they are rolling must be composed of vitamins, for they are growing stronger by the week and were even accepted by the Federation. They meet every Wednesday night at Virgil Junior High School, Los Angeles, 8:30 p.m. Head Big Chief Pill of the heap of little pills is Al Pill.



Michael Herman In An Emergency Operation

During mid-January, Michael Herman went to Michigan State to instruct an institute. On his second day there he had to be rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation. We did not receive any late report but we trust he is recovering nicely and will soon be home at his folk center. And for crying out loud, stay well! It's no fun arguing with a sick guy.

The Leonard Parsons, of Yuba City, Cal., were on a six-week Eastern Tour and visited with the families of 16 ex-G. I.'s in six states whom they "adopted" while those boys were stationed near them. They had a swell time everywhere... Naomi Greenfield, one of the early pioneering folk dancers and a Circle Piner, is now a settled housewife of Dr. Joseph, Bowling Green, Ohio, and a mother of an 11 year old son and a 9 year old daughter. However, she is still teaching folk dancing to her girl scouts and is active in PTA work. It was through Naomi yours truly was introduced to the first American Singing Circles way back in the early thirties in a camp in Batavia, Ill., where I too was in the faculty. Lawd! Was I actually teaching then?

Reports Dick Weaver: "Dayton (Ohio) folk dancers are entering a new era of television and publicized classes. Mike Solomon, "The Arab from Lebanon", is MC on a new local TV program sponsored by the City called, "It's Fun." It must be... San Diego folk dancers of Vivian Woll have been likewise appearing on TV on the local station, Channel 10, KFSD, as of Mid-January, and yours truly appeared with Miss Rita Farrell on Station XETV, but we had to climb all over the unpaved and rugged hills of Ijuana, Mexico, to do it. Wow, what a ride down on a wet, slippery unpaved, muddy road!... In Green Bay, Wis., during this past winter, the John Gardners and their group were square dancing weekly over Station WBAY-TV. Thousands viewed it and nearly as many descriptions of calls were sent to interested viewers.

Charming Bronē Jameikis of the lovely-tresses fame whose picture we had in the last issue of VILTIS, appeared on a TV program (Channel 7, Chicago), presenting gift citations to various nationality groups. Bronē's tresses were admired by some of our female readers and one reader said, seeing how lovely her hair looked caused her to change mind about cutting her own hair. On the same program, Mrs. Jameikis spoke about the Lithuanian situation overseas. A week later, our pal, Mrs. Josephine Daūvardis spoke over the same channel regarding Lithuania and the singers of Alice Stephens rendered a beautiful vocal program. Mrs. D., who is ever in demand, has her fingers in more pies than any baker could bake.

Millie Libaw, whose trips one can hardly keep up, spent a week during early January in Tucson, Ariz. where she was greeted and feted by the Tucson Jewish Community Center. She also taught Israeli dances she recently brought back from Israel... Marie Wilson of Chicago went the hard way, via plane, train, bus, taxi, etc. to Brasstown, N. C. and visited the renowned Campbell Folk School. Main reason for the trip was, however, to see her latest grandson Richard Moishe Wilson, born January 18... Ted Chamskas, of Berkeley, visited San Diego and enjoyed this beautiful, sunny city.

CORRECTION: The Dunsings are teaching at George Williams College this semester only, and not permanently as stated in the last issue. They are instructing Rhythmic Gymnastics and Folk Dancing.

The San Diego Evening Tribune featured a two-column wide and ten inches long picture of Roy Hinton, Lydia Kališkis and Charles Prater, posing in Lithuanian costumes. It was a terrific pix and probably the first Lith dance picture in San Diego.

Such Fame! Grace Wolff, Dayton folk dancer and leader among the Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Gals, Y-teens, etc., plus her Bill who happens to be no other than His Honor Judge William Wolff, and their three children, had their pictures occupying a whole half page of the Dayton Daily News Society Page, showing them dishing out cookies during the Girl Scouts' Cookie Week.



BUNNI SOVIETSKI'S PRIZE WINNER

"Once upon a time... there was a big tree, an old tree who saw many years and the city of Chicago grew as he himself grew. Children crowded around the tree, and he felt lonesome and weak at his foundation. Then came a strong wind and the tree collapsed over the sidewalk. The property owners forgot the previous beauty of the tree and wanted it removed. A blond Bunni with a hatchet and an imagination for beauty came along and thought to himself, "Certainly, even in death there is beauty." And out of the "useless tree" grew for the "Apple Picker," and everyone raved about it. Many people came to see it. Art critics bestowed a prize and the papers joined in praise of the creation. But even greater was their amazement when they learned that its creator is a self learned young man, a carpenter by trade, a Chicago born Lithuanian youth, Bunny Sovietski (Savickas).

Yours truly knew Bunni for over 20 years. They were friends since early youth and for a time roomed together. Bunni was always imaginative, idealistic and ever fighting for the underdog. As a member of the Lithuanian Youth Society (LYS) he was their columnist and news reporter and edited the book "Vaga-Furrow." He is married to Hortense who is an expert puppeteer and both make an excellent couple.

To Bunni and Hortense we wish many years of health and artistic productivity. With assurance we expect many more proud creations from you, Bunni. Geriausio Pasiseikimo.